

## REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments corrections have been made on pages 5 and 26 of the specification and appropriate headings have been added on pages 1, 4, 14 and 16. A brief description of Figures 1 and 2 was also included on page 14. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-14, 16-25, 27, 28 and 36-40 have been amended. New claims 42-48 have been added. Thus, claims 1-48 are in the application.

The application was filed without an abstract. To remedy this, enclosed herewith on a separate sheet is an Abstract of the Disclosure for inclusion in the specification as noted by the above amendments in the specification.

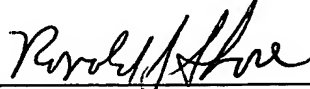
An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with this Second Preliminary Amendment. By the Information Disclosure Statement U.S. Patent No. 6,352,629 referred to in the application specification and U.S. Patent No. 6,277,249 referenced in Patent No. 6,352,629, have been cited and copies thereof enclosed pursuant to the duty of disclosure. It is requested that these cited documents be considered and made of record in the application.

An early action on the merits is requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to

Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 635.43483X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Shore", written over a horizontal line.

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RJS/kmh

Attachments